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METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING ZIPPER WITHOUT SHIFT IN INJECTION MOLDING

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to zippers, and particularly to a method for manufacturing a zipper without shift in injection molding.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The engaging pieces of prior art zippers, especially lower engaging pieces, possibly shift in the manufacturing process since the zipper strips can not precisely locate on the upper and lower engaging piece molds so that the upper and lower engaging pieces can not be positioned in the molds precisely. Therefore, the upper and lower engaging pieces have bad appearance.

With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, the prior art way for manufacturing zipper is illustrated. The prior art zipper has a left and a right zipper strips 90. Each zipper strip 90 has zipper teeth 91 thereon. A part of the zipper teeth 91 is scraped with a predetermined length. Then two layers of films are melt and then coated on the two sides of the 20 zipper strips 90. Then the two layers of films are punched with notches 93 which are opened. In the punching process, the connecting strip 901 is also punched. Then, lower engaging pieces 94, 95 are injection-molded on the notches, and the upper engaging pieces 96, 97 at the upper side of the films 92.

25 In above process, the two layers of films are used to fix the lower

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engaging pieces of the zipper 9. Other than combining the lower engaging pieces 94, 95 to the films 92, the fingers may pinch this part. The object of forming the notches 93 is that when the lower engaging pieces 94, 95 will extend to the notches 93 after they are injection-molded (referring to Fig. 2) so that the bottoms of the lower engaging pieces will not enclose the zipper strips and the films 92. Therefore, the strength of the bottom is larger than other part.

Referring to Fig. 3, the shaping of the lower engaging pieces 94, 95 and the upper engaging pieces 96, 97 must guide the zipper strips into the molds. When the zipper strips are guided into molds so that the zipper strips are precisely positioned in the upper and lower molds. The zipper strips 90 must be expanded so as to become straight and thus flat on the molds. However, the films 92 will deform as the zipper strips 90 are expanded due to the notches 93 with openings on the films 92 of the zipper strips 90. These notches will cause the widths of the films become smaller. Therefore, when the zipper strips are expanded and thus the notches 93 will deform. In general the rectangular notches will become trapezoidal notches (referring to Fig. 3) or the films 92 is bent and deformed. Therefore, the engaging pieces can not precisely match the upper and lower molds. After the lower engaging pieces 94, 95 and upper engaging pieces 96, 97 are injection-molded, the zipper strips 9 can be separated from the molds. Then the upper and lower engaging pieces of the released zipper strips 9 (referring to Fig. 4), especially the lower engaging pieces, will shift and dislocate due to the deformation of the films in the

injection-molding process. As a result, it is very possible that the upper and lower engaging pieces can not be matched with one another or even a bad outlook occurs.

5 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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Accordingly, the primary object of the present invention is to provide a method for manufacturing a zipper without shift in injection molding, wherein the method comprises the steps of forming a bank of continuous zipper teeth at an edge a zipper strip; scraping a part of zipper teeth on the zipper strip; melting two layers of films and coating the films on the upper and lower sides of the zipper strip; punching a hole at inner lateral sides of the films; guiding two zipper strips into an upper and a lower engaging piece molds; and expanding the zipper strips; injection-molding upper engaging pieces and injection-molding lower engaging pieces; moving the molds from the zipper strips and removing other undesired objects; cutting the zipper strips along the holes, thus forming the upper and lower engaging pieces of a zipper. When forming the hole, a connecting strip at an edge having the films must be retained. Thereby, the zipper strips can be precisely positioned in the upper engaging piece mold and the lower engaging piece mold.

The various objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily understood from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the appended drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing the coating films process in the prior art zipper.

5 Fig. 2 is a schematic view showing the step of injection-molding the upper and lower engaging pieces in the prior art design.

Fig. 3 is a schematic view showing the deformation of the zipper strips in the prior art.

Fig. 4 is a schematic view showing the shift of the prior art zipper after injection molding.

Fig. 5 shows the manufacturing process of the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a schematic view showing the zipper teeth being formed on the zipper strip of the present invention.

Fig. 7 is a schematic view showing the step of scraping the zipper teeth in the present invention.

Fig. 8 is a schematic view showing the step of coating films in the present invention.

Fig. 9 is a schematic view showing the step of forming a hole on the film of the present invention.

20 Fig. 10 is a schematic view showing the process of forming the upper and lower engaging pieces in the molds of the present invention.

Fig. 11 is a cross sectional view of a finished zipper in the present invention.

25 Fig. 12 is a schematic view showing the lower engaging pieces of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The manufacturing process of the present invention has been illustrated in Fig. 5. The present invention comprises the step of forming a bank of continuous zipper teeth on an inner side of a zipper strip by molding injection (step 1); scraping a part of zipper teeth on the zipper strip (step 2); by thermal pressing, melting two layers of films and then coating the films on the upper and lower sides of the zipper strip at the part without zipper teeth (step 3); punching holes at inner lateral sides of the films while the connecting strips are left (step 4); guiding two zipper strips into an upper and a lower engaging piece mold; expanding the zipper strip so as to be placed on the mold flatly and the zipper strips being matched to the upper and lower engaging piece molds (step 5); injection-molding upper engaging pieces at inner sides of the zipper strips and injection-molding lower engaging pieces at inner sides of the films (step 6); moving the molds from the zipper strips and removing other undesired objects (step 7); cutting the zipper strips along the holes, thus forming the upper and lower engaging pieces of a zipper (step 8).

The process of forming the present invention is illustrated in Figs. 6 to 11. Fig. 6 shows the condition of forming zipper teeth (step 1). Two zipper strips 11 are disposed in parallel. The inner side of each zipper strip 11 has a connecting strip 111. A bank of zipper teeth 12 with teeth being spaced with an equal space are injected to the inner side of each zipper strip 11. The zipper teeth 12 clamp the zipper strip

11 steadily by the connecting strip 111. Thereby, the zipper teeth 2
are flexible and can prevent from dropping down due to an outer force
applied thereon.

Fig. 7 shows a condition that the zipper teeth 2 have been
5 scraped (step 2). A part of the zipper teeth 2 with a length of 3 cm is
scraped, wherein the length of that part is determined as required.
Now, the zipper strip 11 still remains on the connecting strip 111.

Fig. 8 shows the process of coating films (step 3). At the part of
the zipper strip 11 without zipper teeth 2 near the upper zipper teeth 2,
two layers of films 13 are melt and then are fixed to the upper and
lower sides of the zipper strip 11 by thermal pressing (for example,
supersonic welding). Thereby, the part of the zipper strip 11 having
the films is flexible. It has the function of wet and friction-preventing
and protecting zipper strip.

Fig. 9 shows the process of forming holes on the zipper strips
(step 4). A hole 14 is formed on the film 13 by punching, while the
connecting strip 111 is remained. When two zipper strips 11 are
guided into the engaging piece molds (step 5), the inner side of hole
has completely connecting strip 111, and thereby, as the zipper strip
20 11 is expanded from upper and lower sides. The hole 14 of the films
11 will not deform due to the flexibility of the connecting strip 111.
Furthermore, the film does not become uneven. Therefore, the
zipper strip 11 can be precisely located to the upper and lower
engaging piece molds.

25 Referring to Fig. 10, the process of forming the upper and lower

engaging pieces (step 6) is illustrated. After injection molding, the upper engaging pieces 17, 18 and lower engaging pieces 15, 16 are precisely located on the zipper strips 11 without shifting or dislocation. Furthermore, the connecting strip 111 passes through the upper and

5 lower engaging pieces.

Fig. 11 shows a process of cutting zipper strips (step 8). A cutting machine moves along the uppermost side of the hole 14 and then cuts the connecting strip 111 at the lower end of the lower engaging pieces 15, 16.

Fig. 12 show that the difference of the lower engaging pieces 16 and 16 from the convention ones is that the lower end thereof has cutting traces (as illustrated by an arrow). The conventional lower engaging piece has no cutting surface on the connecting strip 111. However, the lower engaging pieces of the present invention have not been enclosed by films. Therefore, it is stronger in structure. It is unnecessary to worry about the problem of insufficient stress due to the connecting strip 111. Since in some cases the conventional lower engaging pieces shifts due to the manufacturing process and technology. By the present invention, not only the upper and lower
20 engaging pieces are not effected, but also no shift occurs in the manufacturing process.

The present invention are thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the present
25 invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one

skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.